



By the King.

A Proclamation for preuention of abuses of
Informers, Clerkes, and others in their prosecutions
vpon the Lawes, and Statutes of this Realme.



Hereas for the more due execution of the Lawes, and Statutes of this Realme, and the better to reforme the abuses of Common Informers in their vniust prosecutions, and verations of Our Subjects: wee by Our Letters Patents vnder Our great Seale of England, bearing date at Westminster the twentieth day of February, in the first yeere of Our Raigne, vpon due consideration did ratifie and confirme the Office of Receiver, and Collectour of Fines, and Forfeitures due vpon penall Lawes, formerly erected by Our late deere Father of blessed memorie, in the eighteenth yeere of his raigne; and therunto we vniited and annexed the Surueying, Registering, Collection, and Receipt of Fines, and Forfeitures, for transgressing the Common Law of this Realme, or any branch thereof, and of all, and euery Recognizance, or Recognizances thereupon grounded, which were, or should be forfeited to Our vse in any Our Courts of Justice, and Iudicature, within this Our Realme of England, and Dominion of Wales; and of all summes of Money, which were, or should bee to Us, Our Heires and Successors, due, or growing by reason of any Information, Bill, Plaint, Suit, Action, Presentment, Composition, Verdict, Iudgement, Execution, or other proceeding commenced, or to be commenced and prosecuted, either by Our Attorney generall for the time being, or by any common Informer, or other prosecutour, person, or persons whatsoever, against any offendour, or defendant for transgressing the said Lawes and Premises, or any of them, or by reason of any Recognizance as aforesaid; Sithence, the one and thirtieth yeere of the raigne of Our late Royall predecessor Queene Elizabeth, (excepting the Registering of all Suites, Plaints, and Informations, and the collecting of all fines, and Forfeitures due, or to be due by any sentence of Our Court of Starchamber, or by any Iudgement, Sentence, or Decree in either of Our Courtes holden, or to bee holden before the Lord President and Councell, in Our Principallitie and Marches of Wales, or before the Lord President and Councell, in the North parts of this Our Realme, or in any Court Leet, or Courtes Leets, and of all fines, and Forfeitures for Custome causes, and touching Our settled Reuenue, and of all other fines, and Forfeitures, whereof the Registering, Collection, and Receipt was by any letters Patents vnder the great Seale of England granted to any other person, or persons, before the fifteenth day of October, in the eighteenth yeere of the raigne of Our said deere Father, and which were in force at the time of the making, and ensealing of Our said letters Patents.) And whereas, by Our said letters Patents, we haue granted the said Office vnto Our trusty and welbeloued seruants James Chambers Doctour of Philosophie, one of Our Physicians for Our Person in ordinary, and Edward Brawne Esquire, one of Our Gentlemen Seruers in ordinarie, for terme of their liues, and the longest liuer of them, to be exercised, and executed by himselfe, or themselves, or by his, or their sufficient deputie, or deputies, as therein more at large it doth, and may appeare.

Now forasmuch, as notwithstanding the seuerall prouisions expressed in Our said letters Patents, and seuerall directions sithence given by Us in pursuance thereof, for preventing of great



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fraudes, and abuses committed by the subtille practises of common Informers, combining with under Clerkes, and other inferiour officers their confederates, in their prosecutions vpon the said Lawes, and premises: the same continue still moze and moze practized, to Our great prejudice, the contempt of Our Lawes, and abuse of Our Subjects, and to the onely private gaine of them the said Informers, Clerkes, and other such inferiour persons and officers: We therefore, for the better prevention of all such fraudes, and practises in time to come, and for the better setting, and ordering of the said Office, and performance of Our service therein to be done by Our said officers; And to the intent Our Royall Will and pleasure, and provisions in Our said letters Patents, concerning the premises, may be the moze publicly knowne and duly obserued; Haue thought fit by this Our Proclamation to giue publique notice thereof, to all Our officers, and louing Subjects, especially those whom it doeth, or may concerne; That they nor any of them may pretend ignorance, if at any time hereafter they shall violate, or transgresse the same: which we doe hereby straightly charge, and command them, and euery of them, carefully to obserue, vnder paine of Our high displeasure, and such punishments, as by the Lawes of this Our Realme, or Our Prerogative Royall may be inflicted vpon them for such their contempt.

And first, for the better and moze certaine knowledge of the proceedings of Informers, and of what thereby shall accrue vnto Us, and to prevent their secret practises; we doe hereby straightly charge and Command, that euery Informer and other prosecutour, person, and persons whatsoever, that shall at any time hereafter exhibite or preferre any Information, Bill, Plaint, Suite, Action, or Presentment, in any Our Courtes, or places of Justice within this Our Realme of England, and Dominion of Wales, (Except the Courts and places before excepted) vpon any penall Law, or Statute, or for transgressing the Common Law of this Realme, or any branch or member thereof, wherein we shall be interested, shall before he take out any Writ, or Proesse against any Defendant, for appearance to his Suite, deliuer a briefe and perfect Note, or Copie of euery such Information, Bill, Plaint, Suite, Action, and Presentment to Our said Receiuers, their Deputies, or some of them, either at their publique Office kept for that purpose, in, or neere Our Citie of London, for such as shall be exhibited, and prosecuted, in Our Courtes of Record at Westminster, and other Our Courts of Justice, in, or neere Our Citie of London, and places thereunto adioyning, or to their particular Deputies attending in the seuerall Countiees, and places aforesaid, for such as shall be there preferred, and prosecuted; To the intent that an Entrie may be thereof, by him, and them had, and made, according to the true intent and meaning of the said letters Patents.

And Our further Will, and Pleasure is, that no Officer, Attorney, or other Clerke, or Clerkes whatsoever, whether belonging to any the said High Courtes of Justice at Westminster, or to any other inferiour Court or Courts as aforesaid, or to any Towne Corporate, Borough Towne, or other place within this Our Realme of England, and Principallitie aforesaid, having Authority to Issue forth any such Writ, or Proesse, shall Issue forth any such against any Defendant, at the Suite of any Informer, or other Prosecutor, vpon any the aforesaid Lawes, or Statutes, vntill it shall be made appeare vnto such Clerke, Attorney, Officer, or other person, by some Note, or Writing vnder the hand, or hands of Our said Receiuers, or his, or their Deputie, or Deputies, or some of them, That they Our said Receiuers, or their Deputies, or some of them, haue had sufficient notice of euery such Information, Suite, Action, or Plaint, together with the names, and places of the abode of the parties both plaintiffe, and defendant.

And Our further Will and Pleasure is, and we doe hereby straightly charge, and Command, all common Informers, and other prosecutors as aforesaid, that shall hereafter sue out any Licence to Commune, Compound, and Agree with any Defendant, or make any Composition vpon any such Licence, or procure any Fine to be set, stricken, or Assessed to Us for the same; and euery Officer, Attorney, and Clerke belonging to any Our Courts, or places of Justice as aforesaid, that shall make, or prepare any such Licence, or any Warrant, Bill, or Writing, for the striking, setting, or Assessing of any Fine, vpon, or by reason of any Information, Bill, Plaint, Suite, Presentment, or Action as aforesaid, or for, or by reason of any Verdict, Composition, or Inquest; That they, and euery of them respectively from time to time at all times hereafter, by Writing vnder his, or their hand, or otherwise giue true, certaine, and sufficient notice, and knowledge thereof, to Our said Receiuers, or their Deputies, or some of them, before any such Licence for Composition, or Warrant for Assessing, or striking off Fines as aforesaid shall be exhibited, or preferred to any the Judges, Barons, or Justices of Our said Courts, or to Our Attorney Generall for the time being, to bee by them, or any of them Signed, Granted, Stricken, Set, or Assessed respectively as aforesaid; To the intent, that not onely Entries of the particulars thereof, together with the names and places of abode of the parties, both Plaintiffes, and Defendants, may be the moze duely had, made, and entred by Our said Receiuers, or their Deputies for Our service, according to the true meaning of Our said letters Patents: But also that they Our said Receiuers, or their Deputies, or some of



them, may be attendant on the said Judges, Justices and Barons, or upon Our Attorney generall at the rating, setting, striking, or assessing of the sayd Fine or Fines, the better to Informe them of any of them of the nature and qualitie of the Offence whereupon the sayd Fine is to be assessed, That thereby the sayd Fine may be by them Our sayd Judges, Justices, Barons, or Attorney generall mitigated or increased, as the cause shall require and they shall thinke fit.

And for the better performing of this our Service, Our Royall will and pleasure is, That the Clerke of the Crowne in Our Bench at Westminster, the Custos Brevium in Our Court of Common Pleas, Our Prothonotaries of that Court, The Remembrancer of Our Court of Exchequer, and the Clerke or Prothonotarie of the Office of Pleas in that Court for the time being; The Clerks of Assize, and Clerks of the Peace in all and every Our Courts in the severall Counties and circuits throughout this Our Realme of England and Dominion of Wales; the Clerks of Cities and Townes Corporate, and all other Officers and Ministers of the sayd severall Courts, and all and every the Officers and Ministers of Us, Our Heires and Successors whatsoever, whom it shall or may concerne doe take speciall notice of this Our Royall will and pleasure in the premises, and in Our sayd Letters Patents more at large expressed.

And that every Informer also, after Composition made with any defendant, and before he shall receive his money or any part thereof, or make any Acquittance or discharge for the same, shall not onely certifie his Composition upon oath before one of the Judges or Justices by whom such licence was graunted and signed; (whom we have by Our sayd Letters Patents authorized to administer such oath) But shall also returne the same so certified unto the Court or Office from whence proccesse upon such Information, suite, or other Action did issue, whereupon the sayd Licence was granted; And shall like wise give notice thereof by writing under his the said Informers hand unto Our said Receivers or their deputies or some of them, to the end that they or some of them may be there present to receive the moyette or other part of the Forfeiture by Our sayd Lawes and Statutes limited and appointed to Us, or other wise procure a Fine to be set for Us, or proccesse awarded against the defendants ad satisfaciendum Finem.

And for the better discovering of any fraud, abuse, delay, or concealment, and finding out of the sayd Fines, Forfeitures, Compositions, Verdicts, Judgements, Executions, summes and summes of money which are or hereafter during the terme aforesayd shall be due, payable, or answerable unto Us, Our Heires, and Successors, for any the causes before mentioned, we doe hereby will, ordaine, Command, authorize, and appoint that Our said Receiver and Receivers, and their and every of their Deputie or Deputies, shall and may at all times hereafter have access vnto, and view, peruse, search, and examine all and every the Records, Proces, Files, Informations, Entries, Bookes, Estrates, and Rolles whatsoever remaining, or which shall remaine in any of Our sayd Courts or places of Justice, or Judicature aforesayd, or in any other Court or Courts whatsoever within this Our Realme of England and Dominion of Wales, having power to heare and determine, and before whom such suites may lawfully be brought, or in the custodie of any the Officers or Ministers of the same Courts; and shall or may at the will and pleasure of them Our said Receivers or their deputies make and take notes and Copies thereof, without any fee to bee payd for the same: To which end, and for the greater ease of Our said Receivers, and their deputies; Our will and pleasure is, and we doe hereby expressly charge and command the Clerke of our Crowne in Our Bench at Westminster for the time being, the Custos Brevium in Our Court of Common Pleas, the Prothonotaries of the same Court, the Remembrancer of Our Court of Exchequer, and the Master Clerks, and other Officers of the Court of Pleas there for the time being, the Clerks of Assize, and Clerks of the Peace in their severall Counties, Courts, and circuits, the Clerks of all Cities, and Townes corporate within this Realme and the Dominions thereof for the time being, and which hereafter shall be, and every of them, and all other Officers and Ministers of the sayd severall Courts and places aforesayd; And all and every the Officers and Ministers of Us, Our Heires and Successors, whom it shall or may concerne throughout this Our Realme of England and Dominion of Wales, That from henceforth there be in every the sayd severall Courts a certaine place appointed, and therein a publique Booke of Register or Entrie exactly kept, In which, all and every the Informations, Bills, Plaines, Suits, Actions, Presentments, Licences, Compositions, Verdicts, Judgements, and other proceedings which now are, or hereafter shall be exhibited or preferred, had, made, assessed, adindegd, or recovered in any of the said severall Courts, Places, or Counties aforesayd by any Informer or other prosecutor, person or persons whatsoever upon the sayd Lawes or Statutes, shall be distinctly entred and registered; and also all, and every Recognizance and Recognizances which shall be given or entred into, acknowledged and taken to Our use, grounded upon the said Lawes or Statutes.



And to the end Our said Receivers or their Deputies may the better execute and exercise the sayd Office, and receive and bring into the Coffers of Us, our Heires and Successors, the summes of money, Fines, Forfeitures, Compositions, and other the duties before mentioned; Our will and Pleasure is, that the chiefe Justices, and other the Justices of both our Benches at Westminster, for the time being, and all and singular the Officers and Ministers of the same Courts, for the time being, and all and singular Justices of Assize, and Justices of the Peace, Clerks of Assize, and Clerks of the Peace, Clerks of Cities and Townes corporate, and all other Officers whatsoever, whom it shall, or may concerne, to cause all and every the foresayd Fines, Forfeitures, Amerciaments, Compositions, and other the premisses which shall bee had, made, let, stricken, assessed, compounded, adjudged, or otherwise happen in any of Our Courts, or other places of Justice, with, or before them, or any of them respectively from time to time, at all times hereafter, at least once in every of the foure severall Termes of the yere, or within ten dayes next after the end of every the sayd foure Termes, to be estreated into Our Court of Exchequer, and a Duplicate or Copie thereof likewise given to Our sayd Receivers, their Deputies, or some of them, to the end that procelle may from thence issue for the leuying of the sayd Fines and Forfeitures, as for the leuying of other Our Fines and Amerciaments are usuall. Willing, requiring, and commanding the Treasurer, Chancellor, Under-treasurer, and Barons of our sayd Court of Exchequer, and other the Officers and Ministers of the sayd Court for the time being, to whom it shall appertaine, to award and make forth, or cause to be awarded and made forth of the sayd Court, according to the course there used, such, and so many Commissions, Writs, and other Procelle, as shall be thought fit, and shall be required by Our sayd Receivers or their deputies, or any of them, for the more speedie leuying, collecting, and getting in of the Fines, Forfeitures, and premisses; and upon request of Our sayd Receivers, or their Deputies, to bee furthering, ayding, and assisting unto them in the doing and executing of Our will and Pleasure expressed in Our sayd Letters Patents, and that as well they, as all other the Judges, Justices, and Officers in their severall Courts, and according to their severall duties and places, do make, let downe, and publish, such and so many other and further Acts, Orders and Ordinances for the reducing of Informers, Attorneyes, Clerks, Under-sheriffes, Bayliffes, and other inferior Officers, and Ministers whom it shall, or may concerne, to the iust and due observance and performance of the premisses, as they in their wisdomes shall thinke fit.

And wee doe further hereby will and Command, all and every Sheriffe and Sheriffes, and their Under-sheriffes, and other persons whatsoever, to whose hands any the summe and summes of money, or other duties of the nature aforesaid, or any part thereof shall come, and all, and every Defendant and Defendants in any the Suites before mentioned, from time to time, to deliver and pay to Our said Receivers, or their Deputies or Deputies, all and every such summe and summes of money, by them or any of them to Us now due and owing, or hereafter, during the terme aforesaid, to be due and owing to Us, Our Heires and Successors, for any the causes, or matters before mentioned, taking onely an Acquittance, or Receipt, under the hand and Seale of the said Receiver or Receivers, his, or their Deputies or Deputies, or one of them for the same, which shall be unto them and every of them, a sufficient discharge in that behalfe.

And for the better ease and reliefe of such Our Subjects, who in respect of their great povertie, are not able to satisfie and pay unto Us, Our Heires and Successors, the whole summe, or penaltie to Us forfeited, and adjudged by Our said Lawes, by reason of the premisses: Our will and pleasure is, that upon Certificate under the hands and Seales of five, or more of the principall and chiefe men of the Parish where the said Delinquents shall dwell; (the Parson, or Minister there to be one,) of the povertie of the said Delinquents, any two or more of the Judges, Justices, Barons of Our Exchequer, and other Officers (whereof the Lord chiefe Baron, or Our Attorney Generall for the time being to be one, and some one of the Judges or Justices, before whom such Information, Suit, or other Action was, or shall be tryed, to be another) may upon sight of such Certificate of their poverty, as in the sayd Letters Patents is expressed, deliver them by Our sayd Officers or their Deputies, abate and mitigate the extremitie of such their Forfeitures so by the rigour of Our Lawes adjudged, or to be adjudged against them, by vertue of the sayd Writs, Judgements, or Executions, as they in their discretions shall thinke fit; And after payment made to Our Receivers of what shall be thought fit to be leuted according to the sayd mitigation, to discharge the sayd Defendants, by Judgement or otherwise, against Us, Our Heires and Successors, touching and concerning the premisses.



And whereas diuers Cities, and towne Corporate within this Realme of England, and Dominion of Wales, pretending right, as from their auncient Charters, vnto the said Fines, Forfeitures, and other the Premises, haue leuied and collected the same to their proper vse: By which Charters, neuertheless, they haue no right at all to any such Fines, and Forfeitures, and that some of the said Corporations are willing to submit themselves to make fine to Us, for all such profits and summes of money of the nature aforesaid, so receiued by them, and that other Cities doe as yet forbear to make any submission, or satisfaction to Us:

Our Will and pleasure is, That according to the power granted by Our said letters Patents, Our said Receiuers, or their authorized Deputies, with the approbation and allowance of the Barons of Our Exchequer, and Our Attorney generall for the time being, or any two of them, (Whereof, the Lord chiefe Baron, or Attorney generall for the time being to bee alwayes one,) may call before them the Maiors, Sheriesses, Recorders, Aldermen, Bayliesses and other such chiefe officers of the said Cities, and towne Corporate, and may admit to composition, all such as are willing to submit themselves thereunto, for all the Fines, Forfeitures, and summes of money of the nature aforesaid, by them, or any of them heretofore leuied or receiued, of, for, or concerning the premises, and thereupon to giue such sufficient exoneration and lawfull discharge, of, and for the same, as shall bee by them thought fit and requisite; And for such as doe, or shall refuse to accept of this Our royall clemencie, to proceede against them, according to Justice, and the Lawes of this Our Realme.

Lastly, Wee Will, and doe hereby publish Our Royall Commandement to bee, that all, and euery Our Subjects of this Our Realme of England, and Dominion of Wales, doe take notice of the premises, and doe performe and execute Our pleasure herein declared, as they and euery of them, will auoide the censure of wilfull contemners of Our Royall Commands, and such punishments as by the Lawes, or Statutes of this Realme, or otherwise may be inflicted vpon them in that behalfe.

Giuen at Our Court at Windsor, the sixth day of September,
in the eleuenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Brittain, France,
and Ireland.



God saue the King.

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